janata cloth involving some employees of NCCF is being investigated.

(c) The concerned Deputy Manager of the NCCF is still continuing in the post of Deputy Manager. However, alongwith some other officers in the NCCF, he has been given the functional designation of Manager for certain administrative reasons without any financial benefit. There is no proposal at present to promote him as Manager and place him in the higher grade.

(d) Does not arise.

Vanaspati Industry

2300. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to permit Vanaspati Industry to use mustard oil in edible oil to help reduce prices;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken so far by the Government to permit the use of mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati.

(c) The crop position and prices are constantly under watch and an appropriate decision in this regard will be taken on the basis of mustard seed availability.

Prices of edible oils

2301. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative prices of edible oils including Vanaspati in January, 1991 and January, 1992;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain the prices of edible oils; and

(c) what Government propose to do to augment the supply of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A comparative statement showing whole-sale prices of edible oils including vanaspati at Delhi Market is laid on the table as statement. (*See* below).

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices include granting of excise rebate in use of non-conventional oils in vanaspati, reduction of stock limits of edible oil seeds and oils by dealers/processors and manufacturers of all edible oils. State Governments have also been asked to undertake strict action against hoarders, black marketeers in edible oil seeds and oils. Apart from this, Central Government has constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply. Edible oils have, once again, been exempted from recent railway freight hike proposed in the Railway Budget for 1992-93.

(c) For augmenting the availability and acceptability of edible oils blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non-conventional oils (like soyabean, cotton seed and safflower oils) has been permitted. For improving the availability of indigenous oils, Government is continuing with oilseed production programme, oilseed projects of NDDB, Setting up of Technology Mission on Oilseeds etc. Apart from this, with a view of augment supply of edible oils, Govcanment have decided to import 2.20 lakh MT of palmolein upto March 1992 through STC. In addition, State Governments have also been permitted to import a quantity of 80,000 MT of palmolein directly till March 1992.